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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

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BOOM PASSING PEAK

It is no secret that some of President Eisenhower's advisors feel that the economic boom is now passing its peak, and perhaps the latest increase in the Federal Reserve interest rate was either premature or now in need of being rescinded.

It is known that business is sticky in the automotive and farm equipment fields. This trend began as early as last November and, despite this obvious trend, the increased interest rate was ordered by the Federal Reserve Board.

Now, it appears that the economic boom is over its peak in other fields, although the peak is yet to be reached in many different fields of business endeavor. In other words, it might be said that the trends at present are mixed, but the fact that they are mixed certainly indicates that the boom is not heading upward as it has for some time.

Since this is an election year, we do not believe the Administration can afford to allow the crisis in our farm areas to become more severe. In addition, it cannot afford to let the passing of the peak of the country's boom turn into a decline, which actually would amount to a temporary recession.

Therefore, it is to be expected that action will be taken quickly, since the Government must be sensitive to economic considerations in an election year. The extent to which the Government will react will depend, in part, upon how confident Administration officials are on Republican chances in November.

The long-term prospect is certainly not a bad one, since tax relief is almost certain within the next year, and since huge defense expenditures, pay raises, growing benefit and pension payments, and continuing good business seem to indicate a continued trend toward a higher business plateau. We do not believe, however, that this trend is to continue upward at a very stiff pace in the near future, but the Government appears ready to step in if the economic health of the country shows any decline in the next few months.

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STATE AND FEDERAL TAXES

The Tax Foundation recently discovered during a survey of state revenue sources, that more than half of the forty-eight states are engaged in exhaustive tax studies in an effort to determine whether present taxes will be adequate to meet the rising expenditure trend.

This trend, which has been evident for some time, is a real one and has posed many states with a serious question in the effort to balance the budget. State tax rates, which are still relatively low in some of our states, are certain to be raised in some cases.

With this thought in mind, the proposed Federal tax cut can be viewed in a more balanced prospective. In fact, as state taxes are increased, in some of our states, this alone will help to check the threat of inflation, which is the present bar to Administration approval of lower Federal tax rates.

In brief, the latest Tax Foundation study shows that state taxes are entering a rising trend. Certainly taxpayers should not be burdened with increased state taxes and continuing high Federal taxes. A good case can be made for tax reduction legislation at this session, but if it is not enacted now, it certainly should be one of the first orders of business in the first session of the Eighty-Fifth Congress.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER

One of the unsung heroes in every community is the Sunday School teacher, who often devotes much of his time, over a long period of years, to his church and his Sunday School without compensation.

These teachers often go to training schools, attend various organizational meetings and help with various forms of church work. In addition, they regularly spend several hours a week preparing for, and teaching, Sunday School.

Often, even a relatively small church will have several dozen teachers, who turn in this time consistently, over the years, as a contribution to the religious life of the community and as an investment in the country's youth.

The Sunday School worker and teacher is often a dedicated person, who has little free time but who gives freely of what he has and expects no reward. To every one, of every faith, we offer a seldom-voiced and respectful appreciation of their services, in an effort to make this a better community, and a little better world.

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When an individual makes up his mind to work, he is usually surprised by the pleasant results.

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Appomattox is your town, and it is going to be the kind of town you help to make it.

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Washington Notes

HURRICANE STUDY

The greatest research attack on hurricanes in history is about to begin, under the National Hurricane Research Project, with headquarters at West Palm Beach, Fla. Funds to start the work were provided by Congress last year. The primary purpose of the study is to inform and warn the public better of the development and approach of hurricanes.

SPACE - SAVING

The Federal Civil Defense Administration is expected to save the Government "hundreds of thousands of dollars a year" by "looking a little harder" for unused government warehouse space, according to Senator Jackson (D., Wash.), who said the new approach had already brought about a $100,000 saving. This resulted, he said, when the agency dropped plans to rent 200,000 square feet of commercial warehouse in three towns in that state.

STATES NOT MAPPED

The U. S. Geological Survey recently reported that there are vast areas of the United States which are still unmapped. Only 40 per cent of the nation is mapped by modern methods, the Survey reported. The best mapped state in the union is Kentucky. Twelve other states have complete map coverages, but only three of these—Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut— have anywhere near as much of their states covered by modern methods as has Kentucky.

FEDERAL PAYROLL

The Federal civilian payroll increased by 1,276 persons in March, as compared with February, according to Senator H. F. Byrd, the chairman of the Senate-House Committee on Reduction of Non-essential Expenditures. This was the third straight month there had been a slight increase. The total was 2,352,647 in March, as against 2,351,371 in February.

PERSONAL INCOME

Personal income in February was reported at a seasonably adjusted annual rate of $313,000,000,000—a rise above the January figure and also higher than the 1955 fourth-quarter average. February income figures are the latest available, but indications are that the March total would show little change.

PRICE INDEX UP

Consumer prices rose an average of .1 per cent between mid-February and mid-March—the first advance since last November. The index for March stood at 114.7, compared with the 1947-49 average of 100. This was 3 per cent higher than in March, 1955, and 12.7 per cent higher than the pre-Korean level of June, 1950.

DOCTOR'S BONUS

A bill to increase the bonuses for physicians and dentists who stay in military service has been approved by Congress and sent to the White House. Doctor sand dentists now get $100-a-month bonus in addition to their regular military pay. Under the new legislation, their bonus would be $150 a month after two years, $200 a month after six years and $250 a month after ten years.

PRISON INMATES

The population of Federal prisons increased to a record 20,920 last year, according to the Justice Department's Bureau of Prisons. The Bureau predicted that the upward trend of inmates in the nation's 29 Federal institutions would continue. Immigration law violations accounted for 4,952 inmates last year, white collar thieves, almost one-quarter of them juveniles, also accounted for 3,642 admissions to prisons in 1955.

OF INTEREST TO VETERANS

By Harry F. Carper, Jr,
Director, Virginia Division of War Veterans' Claims

During both World Wars many servicemen failed to apply for insurance in spite of heavy pressure applied by each of the various services. Many died or were killed on active duty leaving no insurance to survivors. Partly because the servicemen's ignorance or carelessness caused injustice to his dependents or relatives and partly because the government was carrying the cost of death in service anyway, Congress provided free coverage at the time of the Korean War of $10,000.00.

The free coverage, known as Servicemen's Indemnity, is payable where death occurs on active duty in the armed forces or within 120 days after discharge. National Guardsmen and reservists of any of the five branches of the service who are called to active duty, including active duty for training for a period of 30 days or less are covered if death occurs as a result of a disability incurred during the active duty period or while in authorized travel status, and within 120 days after the disability is sustained.

Registrants (drafttes) under the Selective Service Act who are ordered to report for induction into military service and who, after reporting to a local draft board, die from a disability incurred while traveling from the point of assembly to the induction station, are indemnified up to $10,000. Such selectees are considered as being in active duty only after they reach the assembly point as ordered by the draft board and are not covered while traveling from home to the assembly point. Indemnity protection is not in effect if a selectee dies on the trip back home from the induction station after rejection for military service.

GENERAL TO RANKS

Providence, R. I.- Forced by law to retire on his 60th birthday, Brig. Gen. Bruce Johnson, of Warwick, R. I., wanted to stay active in the reserve. He could do so only as an enlisted man. So, recently, he was sworn in here as an airman third class.

Canada plans to lend $72,000,000 to gas pipeline builder.

FILL YOUR FREEZER

It's only natural to expect the frozen food specialists in the community to sell large quantities of frozen foods to home freezer owners and locker patrons. And because we move huge volumes of frozen foods, we buy them for less and pass the savings on to our customers.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Bible Lesson for Sunday School Classes
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Acts 13:25—14:28.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 40:7-12.

Sending Spirit

Lesson for May 27, 1956

IF THE Descending Spirit is the story of the second chapter of Acts, the thirteenth tells part of the story of the Sending Spirit. We may be very much interested in the Descending Spirit but not enough in the Sending Spirit. People today like Simon of Samaria, he sided want the Holy Spirit to do their bidding but for the wrong reasons. Sometimes we want the Spirit to help us do what we want to accomplish our plans, to

Dr. Foreman

persuasive and popular families. But the Spirit of God, although everybody's aid, is no aide. The aide to a general is just the General's right hand man, the tongue—whatever the boss wants done, the aide is there to see it done. The Holy Spirit is no aide!

Break Up Good Plans

The church at Antioch was going strong when the Holy Spirit upset their plans. We don't know how the Spirit spoke to them, but they were sure it was the Spirit. Has one thing is pretty certain, they must have had plans which the Sending Spirit broke up. Barnabas and Saul were what we would call today Associate Pastors of that big city congregation. They had been together there only a year and that is a short pastorate. Why Holy Saul and Barnabas being with the church, had plans of one kind and another—good plans, evangelistic, missionary. But the Spirit said No. The Spirit had other plans. The church must set aside Barnabas and Saul, cut them off from their work, successful work in the church of Antioch, and send them out as missionaries. They must go to parts unknown, to places not nearly so important as Antioch, to the backwoods perhaps. They must go out and endanger their lives, far from the peaceful busy streets of Antioch. The Holy Spirit has often come to men in disturbing ways. He often breaks up our best plans. The thing to remember is that God knows better than we do. God's Spirit never breaks up a good plan unless it is for the sake of his better one.

The Spirit Through the Church

The way the Spirit operated there in Antioch is instructive. The Spirit called Saul and Barnabas; also the Spirit spoke to the church. The command was given: Separate Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. And the church obediently "laid its hands on" these two leaders and sent them out. The Sending Spirit often works in this way. Most missionaries today are selected and sent out by mission boards of some kind. The boards will not, if they know it, send any one to a mission field who has no sense of being called by the Spirit. But on the other hand, even if a young man feels the Spirit has called him, if in the Board's judgment he will not make a good missionary, they will not accept and send him. This is all in the wisdom of God. It gives a missionary today, and it gave Saul and Barnabas back yonder, a strong "lift" to know that the church is backing them up, praying for them, wishing them well, ready to send reinforcements if they fall by the wayside. Sometimes the only way a call of the Spirit comes to a man or woman is through the church. Older Christians ought to realize their responsibilities here.

The Church Through Men

God does not call all men to be missionaries. But he does call every Christian man, woman and child to be missionary. That is, missionary in heart and purpose. The church that is not sending and supporting missionaries, directly or indirectly, by themselves or through a board of missions, the church that is not out there on the firing line through its representatives, the church that doesn't even know there is a firing line, the church that spends all its money and all its interest on itself—such a church is not even a counterfeit of the kind of church we read of in the early days, like the Church at Antioch. The selfish congregation is contributing to the death of the church; the sending church is contributing to its life—its own and the life of the Christian fellowship around the world.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Hixburg

Hixburg, May 21.- Mr. and Mrs. William M. Allen, II, of Glendale, Ohio, visited in the neighborhood on Sunday. Mr. Hans Van Nes Allen, his brother, and family, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, expect to spend the month of June here, in their country home.

The Lucky Clover 4-H Club met in the home of Mrs. Bob Covington on Thursday evening. There was 100 per cent attendance and two new members, Betsy Williams and Joyce Averette joined.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Barney, of N. J. are to spend next week-end in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Covington. Mr. and Mrs. Barney have recently returned from Australia, where they adopted two children, a boy two, and a girl, eighteen months old.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Harris and daughter, of Baltimore, were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Goin. Mr. Goin is much improved. He is up, and can visit around.

Mr. Hunter Goin was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Harris in Williamsburg over the week-end.

Mr. Ernest Carson spent last week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Crote Carson in Richmond, to attend the Billy Graham revival.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fore, Jr., and Richard III, of Farmville, were guests of his parents last week.

Miss Rosalie Fore, who is attending Longwood College, will be at home the last of May for a short visit. From there she will go to Chattahoochee, Florida, where she has accepted a position for the summer.

Kinckle Martin spent the week-end with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Martin, of Gladstone.

Dial 2811 with Personals.

Clover Hill

Clover Hill, May 22.- Mr. and Mrs. Ray Purdum, of Elkins, West Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Purdum and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stossel of Front Royal were Sunday guests of Mrs. S. Guy Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Torrence spent the week-end in Richmond with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hancock.

Mrs. Ruby Gilliam; of Pamplin, was a visitor on Monday of Mrs. W. P. Gills.

Mrs. Banks Frazier and two children, Judy and Tim, of Kenbridge, spent Saturday in the Gills home.

Miss Peggy Crowder, of Gladstone visited Miss Nancy O'Brien Sunday.

Messrs. John and Charles Torrence were among those from here attending the Stock Car Races at Martinsville Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Lawson, of Richmond spent Sunday with Mr. Lawson's mother, Mrs. A. C. Lawson.

Mrs. Jessie Carwile had as her guest for the week-end, her sister-in-law, Mrs. J. H. Torrence, of Lynchburg. Also visiting Mrs. Carwile and her mother, Mrs. Richardson, were Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Richardson and son, Rudy, of Lynchburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Berkley Ferguson and daughter entertained Sunday at a picnic lunch on the lawn of their home. Present for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hanson and son, Kenneth, of Alaski; Joel Trent, U. S. N., Norfolk; Mr. and Mrs. Otway Martin and sons, Bunny and Alvin; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trent and son, Bobby; Mr. Buck Trent, and Miss Mirtis Trent. Also visiting the Fergusons in the afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. Charlie McFadden.

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Richardson and family spent Sunday in Amherst with Mr. and Mrs. Carey Jefferson.

Saturday visitors of Mrs. L. W. Carter were Mrs. Conway Purvis and daughter, Virgie Lee and Mrs. Warren Roberts, of Shipman.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Conner on Monday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Ferguson and Mrs. Charlie Ramsey, of Madisonville.

Vera

Vera, May 21.- May is swiftly passing. It certainly has been a cold month. We have needed fire most of the time.

We are glad to hear that Mrs. Rosa Webb and Mrs. Sam Coleman are both something better.

Mrs. T. C. Harvey, Jr. and children and Mrs. Willie Moses visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey and Harriette visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman on Sunday night.

We are sorry to hear of Mr. Robert Colman being sick. We hope for him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Warters visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey on Wednesday.

U. S. acts to release nickel for civilian goods.

Steel ouptput set a new high in April.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year; payable in advance.

NEWS LETTERS MUST BE SIGNED

We regret that we cannot publish unsigned news items. We do not print the name of the writer of news items, but must have the name of the writer on file. We are always happy to receive news items for our columns, but we will not publish unsigned letters.

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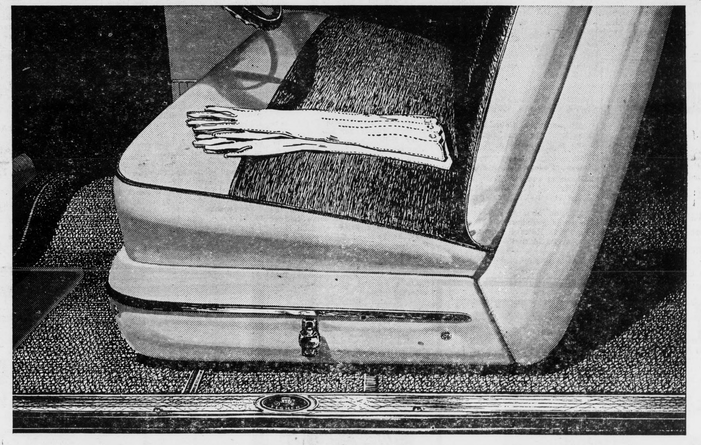

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